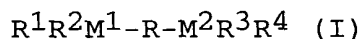


A B S T R A C T

PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY ALCOHOLS

5 A process for producing primary alcohols from  
secondary alcohols and/or tertiary alcohols and/or  
ketones, wherein the process comprises reacting a  
compound selected from a secondary alcohol, a tertiary  
alcohol, a ketone, or mixtures thereof, with carbon  
monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst based  
10 on:

- (i) a source of Group VIII metal,
- (ii) a bidentate ligand having the general formula (I):



wherein  $M^1$  and  $M^2$  are independently P, As or Sb;  
15  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together represent a bivalent substituted or  
unsubstituted cyclic aliphatic group whereby the two free  
valencies are linked to  $M^1$ ;  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  independently  
represent a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl  
group, or together represent a bivalent or non-  
20 substituted cyclic group whereby the two free valencies  
are linked to  $M^2$ ; and  
R represents a bivalent aliphatic bridging group; and  
(iii) an acid having a  $pK_a$  of 3 or less which is in  
excess over the Group VIII metal.